

National Agricultural Summary

August 28 - September 3, 2000

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Extreme heat quickly dried maturing fields in the Great Plains, Corn Belt, Mississippi Delta, and Southeast. Many corn fields were mature, but growers delayed harvest while the hot, dry weather reduced grain moisture levels. The small grain harvest progressed without delays in the northern Great Plains and Pacific

Northwest. Crop development was hindered by persistent rain along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Parts of the Southeast received beneficial rainfall, but drought relief was isolated and brief. Below-normal temperatures delayed crop development in northern California.

Corn: Ninety-four percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage and 76 percent was denting. Development through both stages was nearly equal to last year's pace, when 95 percent was at or beyond the dough stage and 75 percent was denting. Fields rapidly entered the dough stage in the northern Corn Belt, central High Plains, and along the mid-Atlantic Coast. Denting progressed 38 percentage points in Minnesota and 20 or more percentage points in Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Twenty-seven percent was mature, more than double the previous week due to hot, dry weather. Fields ripened ahead of last year's rapid pace and about 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Ripening quickly progressed in the central Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt, but lagged in Michigan and Wisconsin. The harvest advanced to 4 percent complete, equal to the early start last year and ahead of the 5-year average. Dry weather aided harvest progress in the Great Plains and southern Corn Belt, while persistent rain hampered progress along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. More than half of the crop was harvested in Texas and more than one-fourth was picked in Tennessee. Harvest activity increased in Kansas and Missouri. About 1 percent was harvested in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa. Moisture shortages and excessive heat stressed late-maturing fields.

Soybeans: Eighteen percent of the acreage was dropping leaves, ahead of last year's 11-percent pace and 1 week ahead of the 7-percent average. Triple-digit heat quickly ripened maturing fields in the Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt. Fields with leaves dropping nearly doubled in Kansas, advancing 32 percentage points to 67 percent. Above-normal temperatures also promoted rapid development in the northern and eastern Corn Belt. Fields shedding leaves advanced 18 percentage points in Indiana, 11 percentage points in Missouri, Ohio, and South Dakota, and 10 percentage points in Illinois and Tennessee. Crop development lagged behind normal in Michigan and North Dakota. Conditions deteriorated in less advanced fields due to hot, dry weather, especially in Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Cotton: Bolls were opening on 49 percent of the crop, ahead of last year's 44-percent pace and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Hot weather quickly ripened fields, especially in the Mississippi Delta. In Tennessee, bolls began opening in 35 percent of the fields during the week. In Arkansas and Missouri, plants with open bolls advanced 29 and 24 percentage points, respectively. Progress was slightly

slower in the Southeast and Great Plains. In Alabama, bolls began opening in one-fourth of the fields. In Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, fields with open bolls advanced 12 to 20 percentage points. Excessive cloud cover limited development along the Atlantic Coastal Plains, especially in Virginia, where fields with open bolls lagged far behind the 5-year average. Harvest was 10 percent complete in Texas and gradually expanded northward. Conditions deteriorated due to moisture shortages and excessive heat in the Great Plains and Mississippi Delta, while excessive moisture damaged fields in parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plains. In Alabama, rain provided isolated, temporary relief from severe drought.

Small grains: The spring wheat and barley crops were 88 and 92 percent harvested, respectively, about 1 week ahead of the 5-year average and more than 2 weeks ahead of last year's pace. Harvest was complete for most growers, but progress remained active where unharvested fields remained in the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Growers in Idaho harvested 11 percent of their spring wheat and 14 percent of their barley during the week. Two percent of the winter wheat was planted, slightly behind last year and the average for this date. The seeding pace was limited by severe topsoil moisture shortages.

Rice: Twenty-seven percent was harvested, behind last year's pace, but equal to the average for this date. Progress remained active along the western Gulf Coast and gained momentum in the interior Mississippi Delta. Harvest advanced 11 percentage points in Texas. In California, harvest lagged behind normal as below-normal temperatures delayed ripening.

Other crops: Eighty-one percent of the sorghum acreage was turning color and 50 percent was mature, about 2 weeks ahead of last year and the average for this date. Hot weather accelerated development and stressed late-maturing fields. Fields rapidly began turning color in the Corn Belt and central Great Plains. More advanced fields in the Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley quickly ripened.

One percent of the peanut crop was harvested, compared with 4 percent a year ago. Progress lagged in the Southeast, but was slightly ahead of normal in the southern Great Plains. Hot, dry weather stressed fields along the eastern Gulf Coast, while excessive moisture hampered development along parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plains.